

Office of the Attorney General

the KENTUCKY SENIOR SNOOPER

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Office of Senior Protection

6/1/99

Scam Jam 99' Wins Award

The state Attorney General's office and the Better Business Bureau won honorable mention for efforts to inform the public about scams. The agencies received the award from the National Consumer Protection Week organization for AScam Jam 99, a seminar exposing con artists and how they work. Co-sponsors of the event also included the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the American Association of Retired Persons, WLEX TV, the Lexington Herald-Leader and the Kentucky Horse Center.

Seniors Crime College

The Seniors Crime College is a program offered by the Attorney General's Office in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies to educate senior citizens on crime prevention. The training provided through the Seniors Crime College is to help stop physical and financial crimes against the senior citizens of Kentucky.

The theme of the Seniors Crime college is

AAware, Avoid, Alert@ Attorney General Ben Chandler said Athe goal of our Crime College is to make seniors aware of the frauds against them and teach them how to avoid becoming a victim. In addition , we want seniors to alert the proper law enforcement official so that the criminals can be caught before they get to their next potential victim.@

After presenting thirty-two Seniors Crime College seminars throughout the Commonwealth, twenty-five hundred (2,500) senior citizens have received training in crime prevention. Arrangements are now being made for scheduling the Seniors Crime College for the fall of 1999. Senior Citizen Centers have been very cooperative in volunteering their centers to host the seminar as well as assisting in promoting the Seniors Crime College. The cooperation of County Sheriffs, local Police and the Kentucky State Police have also enhanced the program. When senior citizens can actually meet and talk with their local law enforcement Aface to face@it helps relieve some of the anxiety they may feel when they need to call upon them for assistance.

If you would like to attend a Senior Crime College, or have one put on for your local or civic organization, call the Attorney General's Office of Senior Protection at (502) 696-5610.

Upcoming Events

6-9-99 Seniors Crime College Columbia
6-15-99 Seniors Crime College Paducah

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6-16-99	Seniors Crime College	Madisonville
8-18-99	Seniors Crime College	Prestonsburg
8-19-99	Seniors Crime College	Harlan
8-24-99	Seniors Crime College	Mt. Sterling

FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON
THE ABOVE EVENTS, CALL **(502) 696-5610**.

Senior Sleuth

Numerous people from all across Kentucky are applying to become Senior Sleuths. These individuals have been working with our agency in investigating crimes against seniors.

If you have attended the Attorney General's Seniors Crime College and are interested in helping prevent crime, you can become a Senior Sleuth. Just contact the Office of Senior Protection at **(502) 696-5610** for further details.

Bankers Against Financial Exploitation

If your bank teller questions you about your banking activity, it may be they are trying to keep you from becoming a financial fraud victim. The Office of Senior Protection is working hand in hand with the Kentucky Bankers' Association in training all bank tellers about financial fraud.

In addition, the Office of Senior Protection is putting on mini Senior Crime Colleges for bank customers when requested. If you would like your bank to have a crime prevention seminar tell them to call the Office of Senior Protection at **(502) 696-5610**.

Financial Integrity Enforcement

The Division of Financial Integrity Enforcement was created by Attorney General Ben Chandler on December 16, 1998. This division was established to perform the following functions:

- , investigate illegal redemption of food stamp benefits in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture and the Cabinet for Families and Children;
- , verify eligibility of food stamp program applicants as to past criminal history;

investigate the illegal distribution of counterfeit merchandise;

investigate the use of personal identification by persons for the purpose of theft and/or fraud, and other illegal or fraudulent activity which may involve electronic commerce.

Mr. Loren A. Squirrel, Director of this new division, will be working closely with the Office of Senior Protection in presenting information on how to avoid *losing your identity* at the Seniors Crime Colleges.

If you would like more information or would like to file a report of this crime, call the Division of Financial Integrity Enforcement at **1-800-804-7556**.

Two Plead Guilty in Ballroom-Dancing Fraud Case

Two ballroom-dancing instructors accused of conning more than a dozen people - most of them elderly women - out of nearly \$400,000 pleaded guilty on March 25, 1999 in Jefferson Circuit Court, admitting that some of the money meant to pay for trips to Paris and other distant locales ended up lining their own pockets.

Alexander C. White, 26, and Andy Tomljenovic, 30, both of whom were instructors at the Steppin' Out Dance Studios on Shelbyville Road, pleaded guilty to 13 counts of theft by failure to make required disposition and one count each of fraudulent use of a credit card and attempted engaging in organized crime.

The studio opened in 1995, closed in October 1998 when White and Andy Tomljenovic were arrested. At the time there was just one victim who accused them of cheating her out of \$19,975. She had paid to enter a dance contest in Paris, but the contest was supposedly canceled and she didn't get her money back.

After further investigation by the Attorney General's Office, a dozen more victims were discovered. They lost anywhere from \$4,900 to \$176,970.

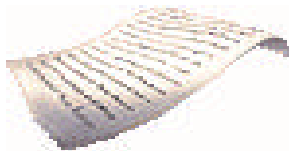
Lexington TRIAD Formed

On April 20, 1999 a new TRIAD was formed for the Lexington area. After initial discussions with the Office of Senior Protection, Sheriff Kathy Witt; prosecutors, Ray Larson and Margaret Kannensohn; and assistant Police Chief, Ulysses Berry joined with AARP and RSVP representatives to form a TRIAD. Attorney General Ben Chandler said he was happy to see this program continue to expand in Kentucky.

Frankfort TRIAD Formed

On March 11, 1999 at the Seniors Crime College the Franklin County Sheriff Ted Collins; Major Mark Wilhoite of the Frankfort Police Department and Franklin County AARP President, Wallace Waylan, signed the agreement to form a TRIAD for the Frankfort area. Mayor Bill May and Assistant Deputy Attorney General Jeff LaGrew were present to witness the event.

Deputy Shaka-Tauhid Bridges of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office and Officers Bill Riley and Roy Rivers with the Frankfort Police Department are currently working with the Franklin County TRIAD on several projects. Meetings for this TRIAD are held at the Frankfort Senior Citizens Center. For more detailed information on the meetings contact Jerry Ballou at (502) 223-5794.



The victims were promised ballroom-dancing lessons, elaborate parties and trips to exotic locations, some of which never materialized.

quarterly. Anyone wanting to share **A**newsworthy@ news for senior citizens can do so by submitting their articles to: **The Office of the Attorney General, Office of Senior Protection, 700 Capitol Avenue, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, ATTN: Roberta Merideth.**

Spring Cleaning

The season for spring cleaning is here! Just remember to be **A**alert@ when you are making decisions for your home repairs. Listed below are some important tips to remember when you begin making these repairs.

Tips For Fraudulent Home Repair

The Kentucky Senior Snooper **Newsletter**

This newsletter is provided to Senior Citizens for informational purposes only and will be published

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or in the provision of services. The OAG provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in all programs and activities. The OAG intends that no person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity operated by the OAG. The OAG intends to bind all entities operating under its jurisdiction and control to fully comply with and abide by the spirit and intent of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

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U	Be doubly wary of contractors who come to your house and say your house needs expensive repair work, such as roof or driveway damage you have never noticed.
U	Be doubly wary if they offer you a Deal@ because they have material left over from another job in your neighborhood.
U	Call law officers if you are suspicious.
U	Get at least three estimates from local, reputable contractors. Make sure the estimate covers all costs, including finance charges, building permit fees, installation costs and all materials.
U	Always ask for references, and contact them before you sign a contract.
U	Get any promises in writing and if possible, ask a lawyer to review the contract before you sign.
U	Don't be pressured into paying additional fees after the work has started.
U	Never pay the full price up front.
U	You have three days to cancel after signing a contract for home improvement.
U	Never have the contractor fill out the check for you.

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